

Message Text

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ORIGIN EB-07

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY KINGSTON

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E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS: ETRD, JM

SUBJECT: TEXTILE BILATERAL NEGOTIATIONS

REF: STATE 133929

1. JUNE 19-20 CONSULTATIONS WITH JAMAICAN DELEGATION
CONCERNING TEXTILE BILATERAL PROCEEDED AS ANTICIPATED.
AFTER DISCUSSING CURRENT LOW LEVELS OF TRADE AND MIDDLE
TERM INVESTMENT PLANS FOR JAMAICAN TEXTILE INDUSTRY, U.S.
NEGOTIATORS PROPOSED THAT EXISTING COTTON BILATERAL BE
REPLACED WITH BRIEF AGREEMENT TO CONSULT. JAMAICANS WERE
HESITANT TO DROP BILATERAL BECAUSE AGGREGATE LEVEL IS
MUCH HIGHER THAN CURRENT LEVELS OF TRADE IN COTTON
TEXTILES, AND JAMAICANS DID NOT RPT NOT WISH TO LOSE
RIGHT TO SHIP COTTON TEXTILES AT LEVELS OF CURRENT
AGREEMENT. U.S. NEGOTIATORS ARGUED THAT ANY NEW BILATERAL
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WOULD HAVE TO COVER MAN-MADE FIBER (MMF) TEXTILES AS
WELL AS COTTON. SUCH A BILATERAL WOULD NOT RPT NOT BE IN
INTEREST OF GOJ BECAUSE BASE LEVELS IN MMF WOULD DEPEND
ON CURRENT TRADE WHICH IS VERY LOW.

2. JAMAICANS WOULD HAVE PREFERRED TO KEEP RELATIVELY HIGH AGGREGATE LEVELS OF CURRENT COTTON AGREEMENT AND LEAVE MMF TEXTILES UNCONTROLLED UNTIL THEY HAD INCREASED

LEVELS OF TRADE. THIS POSITION NOT RPT NOT ACCEPTABLE TO US BECAUSE 1) EQUITY PROVISIONS OF MFA REQUIRE THAT WE APPROACH JAMAICAN AGREEMENT ON SAME BASIS AS AGREEMENTS WITH OTHER SIMILAR TRADING PARTNERS (E.G., HAITI), AND 2) ALTHOUGH LEVELS OF TRADE ARE CURRENTLY LOW, JAMAICAN TEXTILE EXPORTS ARE ALMOST ENTIRELY 807 ITEMS, E.G., APPAREL ASSEMBLED FROM PIECES CUT IN US AND EXPORTED TO JAMAICA. THIS TYPE INDUSTRY IS CAPABLE OF VERY RAPID GROWTH AND IS OF GREAT CONCERN TO U.S. LABOR UNIONS, PARTICULARLY IN THIS TIME OF HIGH UNEMPLOYMENT. THE UNIONS REGARD THESE 807 INDUSTRIES AS AN ATTEMPT TO EXPORT JOBS AND UNDER-CUT US WAGE RATES.

3. CONSULTATIONS PRODUCED MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

AD REFERENDUM WHICH WE HOPE WILL SHORTLY BE IMPLEMENTED BY AN EXCHANGE OF NOTES. MEMORANDUM WAS STANDARD AGREEMENT TO CONSULT WITH ADDITION OF A PARAGRAPH (PARA 3) WHICH TAKES INTO ACCOUNT 1) JAMAICANS' DESIRE TO MAINTAIN AND INCREASE THEIR EXPORTS AND ACCESS TO US MARKETS AND 2) USG CONCERN THAT JAMAICAN TEXTILES MAY CAUSE OR THREATEN MARKET DISRUPTION.

4. COPY OF MEMORANDUM IS BEING AIR POUCHED. KISSINGER

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